

track and field programs. Each fall, the City of Harrisburg celebrates its history with a Past to Present Festival. As well, Harrisburg has served as a vital part of the coal industry in southern Illinois for many years.

I am proud to represent the people of the great City of Harrisburg and to share in this special occasion with them. I thank them for all they give to this great nation and I wish them many successes in the years to come. Congratulations!

IN RECOGNITION OF FORMER MISSOURI GOVERNOR WARREN E. HEARNES AND FORMER MISSOURI STATE REPRESENTATIVE BETTY COOPER HEARNES

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two great Missourians, Governor Warren E. Hearnes and his wife, State Representative Betty Cooper Hearnes on their birthdays.

I salute the accomplishments of Governor Hearnes and Representative Hearnes. I worked alongside Betty in the General Assembly. In true fashion, she does not want to be recognized for her accomplishments, but I would be remiss not to mention her great contributions to our State as an elected official and First Lady. The Hearnes have shared significant roles in the State of Missouri, shaped and crafted sound public policy, and served as beacons of light for our citizens and our party.

The Hearnes celebrate the same birthday and today marks Warren's 80th birthday and Betty's 76th birthday. I salute the remarkable longevity of their lives together and their lifelong commitment to public service.

Warren Hearnes is renowned for his tenacity and principles as a public official. Governor Hearnes is a graduate from West Point Military Academy, as well as from the University of Missouri Columbia Law School. After serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, he was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives the following year, and later went on to serve as Secretary of State. He will long be remembered for his unwavering stance to promote state autonomy. Governor Hearnes' fight with the Johnson administration often made him disliked by the presidency but admired by his colleagues in the National Governors Conference throughout the sixties and seventies.

During his time in office, the state legislature overwhelmingly approved and the people ratified a constitutional amendment to allow future Governors of Missouri to serve two consecutive four year terms. Thus, Governor Hearnes ran for and won a second term with the largest percentage of popular votes in Missouri history. In his second term he facilitated reforms to improve universities and colleges, ushered in massive road improvements, and supported the troops in Vietnam but questioned the administration's plan to pursue such a war. Following his term in office, he continued his public advocacy by spending sixteen

years working as the Executive Director of the Southeast Missouri Legal Services, an agency to assist people with low incomes in dire need of legal counseling.

Like her husband, Betty Hearnes is an amazing mentor and friend to everyone she meets. She was an excellent model and confidante during the seventies and eighties when the Missouri legislature had very few women in office. In 1979, Betty won the same Missouri House seat her husband held years prior. In addition, she served as Chairwoman of the Democratic State Committee, President of the Mississippi County Industrial Development Authority, as a major facilitator of the Warren E. Hearnes Museum, and a volunteer currently involved in countless civic and charity projects. Today Warren and Betty continue to spend time in Charleston, Missouri serving those most in need. Their endless generosity is an inspiration to us all.

I congratulate Warren and Betty Hearnes on this meaningful occasion and shared birthday. I am grateful for their friendship and am honored to recognize them for their vast personal accomplishments and lifetime of public service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Wednesday, July 23, 2003, the House had a procedural vote on the FY 2004 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. On House rollcall vote No. 424, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

NYSSA 100TH CENTENNIAL

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to the community of Nyssa in eastern Oregon's Malheur County and to commemorate the passage of an important milestone in the history of the town. This weekend the people of Nyssa will commemorate the centennial anniversary of the incorporation of their community. This is an event that symbolizes the endurance of the eastern Oregon way of life and the continuity that exists between the earliest settlers of our state and the people who proudly identify themselves as Oregonians today.

There is some debate about the origin of the name Nyssa. Some say it is an acronym for the New York Sheep Shearing Association, which sounds plausible enough given the tradition of shepherding throughout the town's history. Others insist that the town was named by the daughter of a railroad engineer who was reading a book on ancient history and named the town after St. Gregory of Nyssa. Whatever the source of the name, this much

is clear: Nyssa stands for the small town values that still echo in the hearts of the people who call it home.

Known as the Gateway City to Oregon, Nyssa is located on the banks of the Snake River on the Idaho-Oregon border. Nearby the historic Oregon Trail, which brought thousands of settlers across the continent to the West, remains visible to this day. Nyssa's history as a town began in 1883 with the arrival of the Oregon Short Line Railroad, though the area was familiar terrain to the fur traders who operated along the Snake River in the early 1800s. The town's first Post Office was established in 1889 and the incorporation of Nyssa occurred in 1903, when the town had gained enough residents to merit elected city officials. In the generations that have followed the founding of Nyssa, the community has been home to hardworking farmers and ranchers who have made their homes in the high desert of Oregon.

The community was immeasurably enriched by the revival of federal irrigation projects in the area, such as the Owyhee Dam which was completed in 1932 to provide water for 120,000 acres of arid land surrounding Nyssa. The miracle of irrigated agriculture made the high desert of Oregon bloom and made possible the way of life that continues today. In the 1930s, many citizens of the Great Plains relocated to the area, drawn by the warmth of the people and the quality of life offered by the community. By the late 1930s, the number of acres being irrigated had attracted the sugar beet industry, and Nyssa saw the opening of the Amalgamated Sugar Company, a sugar processing plant that came into operation in Nyssa in 1938. Agriculture remains the base of the local economy, and most businesses cater to farm production and marketing of products, which include sugar, onions, potatoes, corn, mint, and wheat.

Like many communities in Oregon, the growth in agriculture during the first half of the century brought immigrant families to Nyssa to work the land. Many Hispanic families traveled to the area, where they raised their children and established roots that endure to this day. Nyssa also became home to many Dutch immigrants and later a number of Japanese-Americans who were interned during World War II. Many of these internees remained in the area after the war ended, where they continue to add to the richness of the town's history.

Despite the ups and downs of the Oregon farm economy and the need for many townspeople to find work outside of town, the people of Nyssa have remained loyal to their community. The town has maintained an excellent school system and the population remains stable at 3,100.

Mr. Speaker, since Nyssa was founded it has been home to hearty, self-reliant people who are proud of their history, loyal to their families and community, and representative of the rural way of life that still means as much to the people who live here as it did a hundred years ago. It is both a privilege and an honor to represent the good people of Nyssa in the U.S. House of Representatives. I congratulate them on the occasion of the Centennial of their community, and I look forward to traveling to Nyssa this weekend to share in the celebration with my good friends.